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RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS. — A Course of Practical Instruction in Elementary Biology. By T. H. Huxley, assisted by H. N. Martin. Second edition, revised. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 279. \$2.00.

Manual of the Vertebrates of the Northern United States, including the District east of the Mississippi River and North of North Carolina and Tennessee, exclusive of Marine Species. By David Starr Jordan. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg, & Co. 1876. 12mo, pp. 342. \$2.00.

Report on the Geology of the Eastern Portion of the Uinta Mountains and a Region of Country adjacent thereto. With Atlas. By J. W. Powell. Washington. 1876. 4to, pp. 218.

Recherches sur les Phénomènes de la Digestion et sur la Structure de l'Appareil digestif chez les Myriapodes de Belgique. Par Félix Plateau. Bruxelles. 1876. 4to, pp. 94.

Note sur une Sécrétion propre aux Coléoptères Dytiscides. Par Félix Plateau. Bruxelles. 1876. 8vo, pp. 10.

Note sur les Phénomènes de la Digestion chez la Blatte américaine (*Periplaneta Americana* L.). Par Félix Plateau. Bruxelles. 1876. 8vo, pp. 30.

Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences. Vol. i. 1867-1876. Davenport, Iowa. 8vo, pp. 294. With 36 Plates. \$2.50.

Recent Explorations of Mounds near Davenport, Iowa. By R. J. Farquharson, M. D. (From the Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1875.)

A List of Orthoptera collected by J. Duncan Putnam during the Summers of 1872-3-4 and 5, chiefly in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming Territories. By Dr. Cyrus Thomas. (From the Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, vol. i.) Davenport, Iowa. June, 1876. 8vo, pp. 20.

Entomologischer Kalender für Deutschland, Oesterreich und die Schweiz auf das Jahr 1876. Herausgegeben von Dr. F. Katter. Putbus. 1876. 12mo, pp. 107.

On the Anatomy and Habits of *Nereis virens*. By F. M. Turnbull. (From the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy, vol. iii. August, 1876.) 8vo, pp. 15. With three Plates.

Rambles of a Naturalist in Egypt and other Countries. By J. H. Gurney. London: Jarrold and Sons. 12mo, pp. 307.

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## GENERAL NOTES.

### BOTANY.<sup>1</sup>

ALFRED W. BENNETT ON THE GROWTH OF THE FLOWER-STALK OF THE HYACINTH. — (Abstract of a paper read before the Linnean Society, London, March, 1876.) In a paper read to the society at its meeting on November 4, 1875, Mr. Bennett gave some details in respect of the remarkably rapid growth of the flower-stalk of the female flower of *Vallisneria spiralis*. The general results arrived at were that the greatest "energy of growth" was displayed by the apical portion of the peduncle or that immediately beneath the flower-bud, the energy apparently decreasing regularly towards the base of the flower-stalk. As this appeared to be opposed to the law stated by Sachs and others to govern the rate of growth of the different successive internodes of an aerial stem, he was anxious to ascertain how far it was in accord with the relative rapidity of growth of different portions of a single elongated

<sup>1</sup> Conducted by PROF. G. L. GOODALE.